

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 92549 / August 2, 2021

Admin. Proc. File No. 3-19662

In the Matter of

JONATHAN MORRONE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

On January 15, 2020, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued an order instituting administrative proceedings (“OIP”) against Jonathan Morrone pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.¹ On May 11, 2021, the Division of Enforcement filed a Proof of Service appending a process server’s declaration, which establishes that personal service of the OIP was made on Morrone on May 1, 2021, pursuant to Rule 141(a)(2)(i) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.² On July 19, 2021, after Morrone failed to answer the OIP, the Division filed a motion for default and imposition of sanctions against Morrone. The Division requests that the Commission find Morrone in default for not filing an answer and bar him from the securities industry based on the record and the allegations in the OIP.

As stated in the OIP, Morrone’s answer was required to be filed within 20 days of service of the OIP.³ And a response to the Division’s motion was due within five days after it was served.⁴ As of the date of this order, Morrone has not filed an answer or opposition to the Division’s motion. The prehearing conference and the hearing are thus continued indefinitely.

Accordingly, Morrone is ORDERED to SHOW CAUSE by August 16, 2021, why he should not be deemed in default and why this proceeding should not be determined against him due to his failure to file an answer, respond to the Division’s motion, or otherwise defend this proceeding. Morrone’s submission shall address the reasons for his failure to timely file an answer or response to the Division’s motion, include a proposed answer to be accepted in the event that the Commission does not enter a default against him, and address the substance of the

¹ *Jonathan Morrone*, Exchange Act Release No. 87974, 2020 WL 260277 (Jan. 15, 2020).

² 17 C.F.R. § 201.141(a)(2)(i).

³ *Morrone*, 2020 WL 260277, at *2; Rules of Practice 151(a), 160(b), 220(b), 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.151(a), .160(b), .220(b).

⁴ Rule of Practice 154(b), 17 C.F.R. § 201.154(b).

Division's request for sanctions. If Morrone responds to this order to show cause, the Division may file a reply within 14 days after its service.

When a party defaults, the allegations in the OIP will be deemed to be true and the Commission may determine the proceeding against that party upon consideration of the record without holding a public hearing.⁵ The OIP informed Morrone that a failure to file an answer could result in his being deemed in default and the proceedings determined against him.⁶ The failure to timely oppose a dispositive motion is also a basis for a finding of default.⁷ Like failing to timely file an answer, failing to timely oppose a dispositive motion may result in the determination of particular claims, or the proceeding as a whole, adversely to the non-moving party and may be deemed a forfeiture of arguments that could have been raised at that time.⁸

The parties' attention is directed to the most recent amendments to the Commission's Rules of Practice, which took effect on April 12, 2021, and which include new e-filing requirements.⁹

Upon review of the filings in response to this order, the Commission will either direct further proceedings by subsequent order or issue a final opinion and order resolving the matter.

For the Commission, by the Office of the General Counsel, pursuant to delegated authority.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary

⁵ Rules of Practice 155, 180, 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.155, .180.

⁶ *Morrone*, 2020 WL 260277, at *2.

⁷ See Rules of Practice 155(a)(2), 180(c), 17 C.F.R. §§ 201.155(a)(2), .180(c); see, e.g., *Behnam Halali*, Exchange Act Release No. 79722, 2017 WL 24498, at *3 n.12 (Jan. 3, 2017).

⁸ See, e.g., *McBarron Capital LLC*, Exchange Act Release No. 81789, 2017 WL 4350655, at *3-5 (Sep. 29, 2017); *Bennett Grp. Fin. Servs., LLC*, Exchange Act Release No. 80347, 2017 WL 1176053, at *2-3 (Mar. 30, 2017), *abrogated in part on other grounds by Lucia v. SEC*, 138 S. Ct. 2044 (2018); *Apollo Publ'n Corp.*, Securities Act Release No. 8678, 2006 WL 985307, at *1 n.6 (Apr. 13, 2006).

⁹ *Amendments to the Commission's Rules of Practice*, Exchange Act Release No. 90442, 2020 WL 7013370 (Nov. 17, 2020), 85 Fed. Reg. 86,464, 86,474 (Dec. 30, 2020), <https://www.sec.gov/rules/final/2020/34-90442a.pdf>; *Instructions for Electronic Filing and Service of Documents in SEC Administrative Proceedings and Technical Specifications*, <https://www.sec.gov/efapdocs/instructions.pdf>. The amendments impose other obligations such as a new redaction and omission of sensitive personal information requirement. *Amendments to the Commission's Rules of Practice*, 85 Fed. Reg. at 86,465-81.